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Message Text

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46
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C:EMARKS/IO:DRTOUSSAINT/DD
APPROVED BY IO:SWLEWIS
AF:WSCHAUFELE
S/SO - RKUCHEL
S - MR. AHERNE (SUBST)
---------- 037083
O 230009Z MAY 76 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 126368 TOSEC 130198

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNICEF, AO

SUBJECT: ACTION MEMORANDUM: PROPOSED UNICEF AID TO ANGOLA (S/S

REF: SECTO 13074 (S/S 7610261)

TO THE SECRETARY FROM IO-LEWIS AND AF-SCHAUFELE

1. THE PROBLEM:

ON MAY 24, THE UNICEF EXECUTIVE BOARD WILL CONSIDER THE QUESTION OF UNICEF AID TO ANGOLA; YOUR DECISION THAT THE U.S. DELEGATION SHOULD CALL FOR A VOTE AND ABSTAIN (PER SECTO 13074) POSES ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS FOR US IN LIGHT OF NEW DEVELOPMENTS.

2. BACKGROUND:

A. WE UNDERSTAND UNICEF BOARD WILL CONSIDER AID TO
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ANGOLA ON MONDAY, MAY 24. RATHER THAN AUTHORIZING OUR

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DELEGATION NOT TO OPPOSE A CONSENSUS DECISION IN FAVOR THIS AID, YOU CHOSE TO ASK FOR A VOTE AND ABSTAIN.

B. CALLING FOR A VOTE--AN UNUSUAL PROCEDURE IN THE BOARD, USED ONLY TWICE IN UNICEF'S HISTORY--WILL BE

INTERPRETED AS A CLEAR POLITICAL SIGNAL FROM THE USG. AS SUCH, IT WILL CERTAINLY UPSET THE AFRICANS WHO HAVE JUST AGREED TO GO ALONG WITH OUR DESIRE THAT ANGOLAN APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE UN BE POSTPONED. AFTER ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFELE INFORMED NIGERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER GARBA TODAY OF OUR REASONS FOR SEEKING POSTPONEMENT--IN ACCORDANCE WITH YOUR INSTRUCTIONS--GARBA STATED THAT HE ACCEPTED THEM AND URGED THAT WE EXPLAIN IT SIMILARLY TO OTHER KEY AFRICANS.

C. GARBA SAID THIS, KNOWING THAT WE WILL PROBABLY GO AHEAD WITH THE NUCLEAR POWER PROJECT IN SOUTH AFRICA. (HE WAS VERY CRITICAL ON LATTER POINT, HOWEVER, AND WE MAY EXPECT SIMILAR CRITICISM FROM OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES.)

D. IN THIS SITUATION, CALLING FOR VOTE ON ANGOLAN AID PROGRAM IN UNICEF WILL BE READ AS A HARDENING OF OUR POSITION, GIVEN OUR ABSTENTION IN WHO ON THEIR APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP, AND COULD WELL RESULT IN NIGERIANS AND OTHERS REVERSING THEIR WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT A POSTPONEMENT ON THE ANGOLAN UN APPLICATION. THAT QUESTION MAY BECOME VERY PERTINENT MORE RAPIDLY THAN WE HAD ANTICIPATED, AS ANGOLAN FOREIGN MINISTER DOS SANTOS WAS QUOTED IN A MAY 20 WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE AS SAYING THAT ANGOLA WOULD NOT DELAY ITS REQUEST FOR ADMISSION TO THE UN "AS THE US WANTED" BUT WOULD RESUBMIT ITS APPLICATION WITHIN TWO WEEKS. WITHOUT AFRICAN SUPPORT, THEREFORE, WE MAY BE FACED WITH THE NECESSITY TO VOTE ON THE ANGOLAN APPLICATION MUCH EARLIER THAN WE HAD WISHED.

E. IN ADDITION, OUR CALL FOR A VOTE WOULD ATTRACT CONFIDENTIAL

CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION IN UN CIRCLES AND OPEN US TO THE CHARGE OF BRINGING POLITICS INTO ONE OF THE LEAST POLITICAL PARTS OF THE ENTIRE UN SYSTEM. THIS CHARGE WOULD COME AT A TIME WE ARE INCREASING OUR EFFORTS TO RESIST POLITICIZATION IN OTHER UN SPECIALIZED OR TECHNICAL FORA, E.G., ILO, WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY, UNESCO. IF WE ARE TO PERSUADE OTHER GOVERNMENTS TO SUPPORT SUCH EFFORTS, WE MUST RESIST THE TEMPTATION

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TO PUSH POLITICAL ISSUES OURSELVES INTO APOLITICAL
BODIES LIKE UNICEF.

F. FINALLY, RAISING A QUESTION ABOUT HUMANITARIAN
ASSISTANCE TO ANGOLA WOULD, AT THIS POINT, BE IN
SHARP CONTRAST TO OUR CONTRIBUTIONS TO HUMANITARIAN

ASSISTANCE ANYWHERE IN ANGOLA DURING THE HEIGHT OF THE
ANGOLAN CONTROVERSY IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY.

3. RECOMMENDATION:

THAT YOU RECONSIDER YOUR DECISION ON INSTRUCTIONS
TO OUR DELEGATION AND APPROVE INSTRUCTIONS NOT TO
OPPOSE A CONSENSUS DECISION FOR UNICEF AID FOR ANGOLA.

APPROVE:

DISAPPROVE:

DRAFTED:AF/C:EMARKS/IO:DRTOUSSAINT
CLEARED: S - MR. AHERNE (CLEARED FOR TRANSMISSION)
ROBINSON

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